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fact and suggestion, and has happily no affectations of pseudo-science. It is a very workmanlike production, and should be in the hands of every educated man who knows that he is in contact with an age of transition. It is a veritable mine for the exploitation of preachers and essayists.

W. F.

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**The Great Schoolmen of the Middle Ages.** By W. J. Townsend. Anastatic Reprint. New York: G. E. Stechert & Co. 1921. Pp. 350.

In spite of its many and glaring defects, one is glad to see an anastatic reprint of this well known and much quoted book. It has ever been a popular work with many, and in the main has rendered real service to the memory of the Scholastics. Intended by the author "to aid in the reversal of the general verdict of condemnation passed on the Schoolmen, and to offer some evidence that as men they were devout, liberal, and earnest; that as writers and thinkers they were learned, subtle, penetrating and logical; and that as contributors to the philosophical and theological thought of Christendom they aided enormously the cause of human progress," it was actuated by a much more liberal spirit than was common to Protestant treatises of the time, especially those of a philosophical and historical character.

The tone of Townsend's work is one of sympathy with his various subjects which embrace the chief Scholastics from Alcuin down to William of Ockam and Gerson; but, with the writer, the Catholic Church is always under suspicion, to say the least, in regard to her motives, whatever be the progress she permits or the contribution to culture or education she fosters, and she is always responsible for the spiritual and intellectual despotism under which the Schoolmen labored. The forty years which have elapsed since he wrote has seen a larger reversal in favor of the Schoolmen than he expected, and a withdrawal of many of the honors from the Reformers which he generously gave them, but Townsend helped undoubtedly to bring the reversal about and his book is withal good reading in most of its parts.

PATRICK J. McCORMICK.